

3/4 You explain mastery for letter recognition, there is no explanation for mastery in the other areas. As a parent, I would need some sort of reference to determine my child's development- emergent, progressing, mastered.

Dear Parents,

I am so excited to share your child's Pre-Kindergarten year with you. I know it is a very exciting and overwhelming time as your children begin to prepare for Kindergarten. Pre-K is a year of growth and discovery, as well as a time to assess mastery of concepts and skills. Because it is not always obvious, I would like to provide you with a detailed explanation of the concepts we will be working on, and how your child's understanding will be measured.

Performance based tests are the root of our curriculum, providing us with the concepts, skills, and ideas to observe each child on. Each child has a portfolio in which we will keep all of their work, as well as an ongoing record of the children's progression. The areas that will be focused on are literacy, math, and social development. We will be working together as a Parent/Teacher team, talking in detail through out the year about your child's progression, evaluating areas he/she may need more attention on, as well as the areas where they are excelling.

Literacy will be explored and "tested" in a variety of ways. First and foremost, letter identification, sound awareness, and phonemic awareness will be assessed. Writing his or her first name is imperative as well. Mastery is reached when a child can identify every letter and its corresponding sound. Once mastery is reached, children will begin to sound out word spellings, identify sight words, and read simple words and texts. Concepts of print, including beginning, middle, and end, following the story, the title page, etc., will also play an important role in a child's literacy development. The children's current understanding of handwriting, communicating ideas, and visual discrimination will also be observed and tracked for progression.

Math concepts will be assessed similarly to literacy. The key concepts that children will be exposed to are number recognition, one to one correspondence, perspective, patterns, sorting, and cause and effect. The calendar will be a daily part of our routine, challenging students to identify day, date, month, and year, as well as become familiar with the structure of the calendar. Countdowns to Holiday and birthdays are an important skill as well. Ability to participate and answer questions regarding these areas, as well as small group work will provide us with evidence of each child's understanding.

Social development is a key factor in determining whether or not your child will be ready to advance to Kindergarten. Many factors contribute to this, including the child's birthday, cognitive development, and apparent "readiness". Children develop at different rates, and that is okay! Children will be observed on their ability to collaborate with others, share, work through problems independently, and build relationships. Once again progression in these areas, as well as willingness to take direction and advice will provide us with evidence of awareness and growth.

The validity of Pre-K is often underestimated, and many times the work that is done in the classroom does not seem to have any correlation to learning unless it is explained. Each activity our class will do, including centers, is intentional. My goal is to provide your children with endless opportunities to explore, play, be curious, ask questions, be creative, build relationships, solve problems, and expand their knowledge. It is my priority to genuinely know each child, what they are interested in, what areas they need more attention on, and the areas they have mastered. I will keep a very detailed observation log of your child, and will be able and willing to provide you answers and evidence to any questions or concerns you may have about their progression and understanding. I hope this clarifies the direction of our activities and assessment, and please feel free to contact me anytime.